

# Monaro Musings



The Newsletter of the Monaro Folk Society Inc., Reg No A 00208

Visit MFS at the website [www.monarofolk.org.au](http://www.monarofolk.org.au) and/or [www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society](https://www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society)

***Monaro Musings*, Volume 27, Number 10 – November 2018**



MFS dancers and musicians helping to celebrate Coolemon Court's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday

Photo by David Hunter

## From the President's Soapbox

Following my article last month regarding Stage 88, I received an email from Malcolm Snow, the former CEO of the National Capital Authority. Malcolm felt that I gave the impression that the National Capital Authority was responsible for hire rates at Albert Hall (which is in fact administered by the ACT Properties Group). My apologies if I left this open to misinterpretation: my point was more particularly that there seems to be a trend now to set a commercial rate for use of a venue, then charge community groups 50% of that rate. My other point about Albert Hall was that is an example of a community action group, Friends of the Albert Hall, managing to successfully resist an attempt to commercialise a community property and that they may well be able to assist in our cause. Tina and Mark are currently pursuing a hearing with the relevant bureaucrats regarding use of Stage 88.

It has been quite a busy month with the ISD October weekend, musicians and dancers performing at the Cooleman Court 40th celebrations and the Contra band at the Kangaroo Valley festival, as well as our usual activities. Congratulations to Christine, Kate, Paul and their crew for holding such a successful Irish Set Dance weekend with an increase in younger people attending. Thanks also to those who turned out as dancers at Cooleman Court and to Ian, Sarah, Segundo, Alison and Maurice for providing music.

Finally, don't forget to save the date for the Christmas party on December 8<sup>th</sup> at All Saints. There will be a great opportunity to socialise, as we did at the AGM, with a BYO get together picnic/dinner between 5.00 and 7.00 pm prior to the Bush dance. This may be outside on the lawn or inside the hall, depending on weather, and we may well have some entertainment by any members who would like to get up and have a go. Even if you have something else to attend later you are welcome to come and eat with us first. Hope to see many of you there.

Geoff

## Dancing About

**2nd Saturday Dance ....** Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, at All Saints from 7.00 pm to 10.30pm. Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

All dances taught by our expert callers, Daryl, Colin, Peter and Mark, and called, so no experience needed and no partner necessary (but do bring them if you have one).

Just \$10 for MFS members, and \$1 for a cup and all the drinks you want (water, cordial, tea, coffee, etc). Please bring a contribution to the shared supper.

If you're new to dancing you are also welcome to come along.

Hints: please wear smooth, soft soled shoes so you can glide along the floor.

Please don't wear perfume or aftershave as you will be very close to people and the scent can seem very strong.



**Monday Workshops ....** Every Monday in November at All Saints at 8pm. Party night is on the 26<sup>th</sup> as it is the last workshop before our summer programme of Dancing in the Park. Please bring a plate of supper to share on party night.



Keep an eye on our website to see if we do dance in the park, as there is an issue over pricing for stage 88.

Dance and have fun with live music. Beginners and intermediate dancers attend these workshops as they are tailored to teach. Experienced dancers also attend to help out and to enjoy the dancing and the live music.

Not a dancer, but can play an instrument - then come along too, and join the band - no charge for musicians.

Dancers - it's just \$6 for MFS members \$8 for non-members and the second night is free.

Contributions for supper are welcome but not essential.

Contact person is Mark Simmons 0421 814 718



**Contra ....** is on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2<sup>nd</sup> time free.

No need to bring a partner but please bring some friends to share the fun. Dance to the invigorating music of our own ContraBand.

Contact person is Linda Aunela 0437 350 254, if emailing please put "Contra" in the subject line.

[lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au)

**English Country Dancing ....** is on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your dancing technique and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others. Contact person is Colin Towns 6238 0246



**Irish Set Dancing ....** On every Wednesday in November.

Please note: The new time will continue through term 4, so come along from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Cost is \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others. The first TWO classes for new starters are FREE.

Beginners' refresher classes, which are run on request only, are also free and start 30 minutes before the regular class. To make a request, please contact Christine 0413 168 562 or

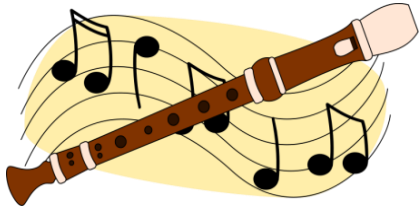
[isdcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:isdcanberra@gmail.com)

## Music, Music, Music .....

**Australian Settler's Music Sessions** – this group meets between 7.15 and 9.30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month, except January, at the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder.. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725







The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 10.00 pm at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston. Some members arrive earlier and have a meal at the Club Bistro. On other Tuesdays the group meets at various members' homes. Please contact one of the organisers, Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135, for more information.

And just a reminder about the **National Folk Fellow** presentation by Salvatore Rossano and his band, Santa Taranta, --'Sonu, a project that explores themes of migration using field recordings from the Oral History collection. National Library of Australia Theatre – 6.00 to 7.30 pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Entry is free but please book via [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)



## Out and About

### Irish Set Dancing weekend at Hall Pavilion – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Wow, what a fantastic weekend of dancing!



The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing weekend may just have been the best ever, with over 130 people attending from the ACT, NSW, Victoria, Qld, SA and of course, Ireland

We were very fortunate to have Maureen Culleton, Irish Set Dancing Master from County Laois, accept our invitation to teach at this year's event. Maureen has been dancing since she was 4 years old and is passionate about all forms of Irish traditional dance. She has composed a number of set dances and she taught three of these. An SeanChistin (The Old Kitchen) celebrates the home Maureen grew up in, which she has developed into a cultural centre and where she runs her own Summer School and Festival of Dance, Seit Bliain na Gaeilge 2018 is dedicated to the Irish Language celebrating 125 years since its revival. The Laois Lancers Set celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1916 Rising. Maureen also taught the Cuchulainn Set, a traditional set from the Coolery Peninsular in County Louth, and two-hand dances.

A highlight for many was Maureen's Sean N'os workshops (photo above). She demonstrated beautifully some of the many different steps and gave very clear instructions and descriptive images to help us follow her example. We have a lasting reminder and teaching aide in a video of Maureen dancing and teaching Sean N'os at the weekend (taken and shared with her permission).

Eileen Grant from the Embassy of Ireland was a surprise guest at the Saturday evening ceili. Although not officially representing the Embassy, she was delighted to meet Maureen and stayed to mingle over supper. The Embassy of Ireland has sponsored the event in each of the past three years, which contributes to both the event's financial viability and its standing in the Irish dancing community.





The Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band from Sydney gave us fabulous music to dance to at three ceilis over the weekend. Nothing like live music to get people onto the floor!



At the end of the weekend, Maureen gave us a song in Gaelic and a very gracious thank you for inviting her to Australia and for our wonderful hospitality. Her teaching schedule for next year includes (in addition to events in Ireland) Germany, Switzerland and Japan.

A big thanks to all those who contributed towards the morning teas and evening suppers. We know people really appreciate home-made, and your donations made a big difference to keeping catering costs down. A big thanks also to Trish Arnold who organized all the catering (food plus hot and cold drinks) and the kitchen over the weekend, ably assisted by Dave Arnold. A huge job well done and very much appreciated. Thanks also

to Paul Wayper (MC and sound technician) and Kate Armstrong (registration), and to the very many volunteers who helped make the weekend such a success. And of course, thank you to everyone who came along and made it such great craic!

Thank you to those who hosted and looked after Maureen (and her travelling buddy Kitty) during their visit to Australia – Shane Cridland, Peter Kennedy and Margaret and Bill Winnett.

We met up again with Maureen and Kitty for a farewell dinner before they headed home to Ireland – tired, but having loved their visit to Australia.

Christine Briton, (Photos courtesy of MelbourneCeiliCamera).



**Ed's note:** Included above is a selection of the fabulous photos taken by Adam Purcell, MelbourneCeiliCamera, the official photographer for the ISD weekend. You can see all of Adam's photos here:

<https://www.melbourneceilicamera.org/Galleries/Canberra-Irish-Set-Dancing-Weekend/>

Adam is happy for people to download and share photos, provided his watermark remains intact and, if posted to Facebook, @MelbCeiliCamera is tagged. Adam's full Image Usage Policy is at:

<https://www.melbourneceilicamera.org/Website-Assets/n-DwGHLx/Image-Usage-Policy.>"

## **The Pot Belly English Music Session** from Greg Wilson

Jackie, Donna, and I last year thought it would be great to have an English music session, and Donna (after extensive research involving drinking lots of beer and wine) found that the Pot Belly Tavern in Belconnen (10 Weedon Close.) was more than amenable to allow us to session there. So now every second Sunday we all roll up and beat up a storm of wonderful rollicking English country dance tunes and the odd stray tunes from other places.. Support has been fantastic and more musicians are turning up each time. We had 20 people last Sunday!

Out of this session has evolved the BURNT ROAST BAND, a band that pays homage to the finest of English cuisine! In June we provided music for the MFS monthly dance, with Colin Towns as caller, and some wonderful displays of Morris from the Surly Griffins. It was a great night and well attended.

On the October long weekend Ray Mulligan asked us to play at the Bush Traditions event now being held in Yass. So on the Sunday we turned up to play for the dance workshop, and then went over to the Yass hotel and held our regular English Music session which went down a treat. I counted more than 40 people either playing or listening, and all with smiles on their faces.

In the evening we played for an English dance, with a mix of country dancing and Playford, again called by a very enthusiastic Colin Towns, and with some extra musos including Sara and Ian Bull and others adding to the fun. The Lovetts Hall was very nice to play in, and added to a great atmosphere. Fun all round!

So, if you have an inkling to play along with some rollicking English Music, mostly easy tunes, come along to our fortnightly sessions at the Pot belly. We don't have music, so it's playing by ear or memory, but we can provide music that you can learn at home. The session is from 3.00 pm till 5.00 pm every second Sunday except long weekends. The next one is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Eileen went to Uranquinty – as she usually does – and wrote:**

"Uranquinty is one of those festivals where it is possible to spend most of the time catching up with friends, sitting under the pepper tree, listening to music and singing around the fire. I did get to see the Iranian group - IHOM Choir - who sang and then changed into very colourful outfits to do some traditional Iranian dancing - very enjoyable - and I also went in to Wagga to visit the National Art Glass Gallery - very much a worthwhile thing to do. The annual pilgrimage to Uranquinty was well worth it."



Photos by Eileen

Some members of The Iranian choir changed into Iranian dancers, and the glass at the National Art Glass Gallery in Wagga was superb

## **Want to try out The UkeCafe this month?**

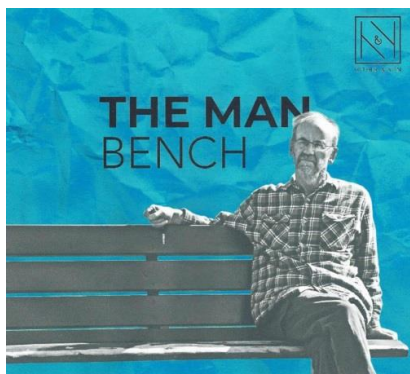
The UkeCafe. is a sing-a-long strum-a-long, collection of people that love music, and being a part of the show. There's Jazz, folk, Irish, doo-wop, cowboy, rock-N-roll, from current top-40 to 1700's (Amazing Grace). All the words and chords are up on a big screen in front. (so no books needed, No uke needed, we have loaners or just sing along!) All songs: words, chords, and videos are emailed out the week before we get together, so you can practice if you'd like. We meet on Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> from 4.15 to 5.45 pm at [The 55+ club](#), 101 Cowlshaw Street, GREENWAY ACT and Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at [Beyond Q](#), 11 Brierly Street, WESTON ACT. <https://www.facebook.com/theukecafe/>

Dan McFeeley



## Hither and Yon CD Launch at the Merry Muse on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

I was not able to stay for the full duration of the Merry Muse last Sunday but there was a good crowd for the launch of Hither and Yon's latest CD – The Man Bench. Tom and Lyndal very generously donated all the proceeds of sales of the CDs to the Merry Muse.



Lyndal notes that the songs can be sampled and downloaded from [www.hither-and-yon.bandcamp.com](http://www.hither-and-yon.bandcamp.com). This site also has all the lyrics.



Hither and Yon performing to a good audience

## Bush Traditions Gathering at Yass by Ray Mulligan

The move from the inaugural home of the Gathering in the Old Goulburn Brewery to the Hartigan Centre in Yass was achieved successfully. The weather was good, no rain, no wind to speak of, cool at night and sunny and warm days.

The Hartigan Centre has turned out to be an excellent venue. We used two workshop rooms that can easily seat 25-30 people in comfort. The Lovat chapel made a third venue. And there was plenty of sunshine on the outside. Long lunch and dinner times allowed participants the luxury of enjoying the local eateries while mingling with friends.

There was music!

And dancing!



There were sessions!



And workshops!





And a Meal from a Camp oven?



### Camping

The Joe O'Connor Reserve provided a good communal camping site. The reserve is located in a bend of the Yass river, behind Yass Primary School. There was plenty of room and the location on the river was quiet and restful.

This year the meal was prepared on site under the guidance of Graeme Morrison.

### Unveiling of Ulick O'Boyle's Monument at Jindabyne by Pete West, member of the Settlers for 11 years

A monument has been erected to the memory of Ulick O'Boyle and the wonderful contribution he and his band The Settlers made to our understanding of the Great Snowy Mountains Engineering Scheme through Ulick's songs.

The monument stands on the shore of beautiful Lake Jindabyne. It was dedicated on Saturday 13 October 2018. The ceremony was attended by a large number of friends and supporters of the band and workers of the Snowy Scheme, as well as former members of the band including Anne Rutherford and Paul Davey of the original band. Congratulations are due to Ulick's daughter Shannon and her partner Gary for making this happen.

Dr Mike Kelly MP did the official unveiling and delivered a stirring speech. He really knew his subject and sounded like an old-time Labor politician. Well done. The Cooma Choir performed some of Ulick's songs.

The Settlers first album, Songs of the Snowy Mountains, was recorded in 1966. Over the next thirty years Ulick O'Boyle produced six more Snowy albums – More Songs of The Snowy Mountains, West of Cooma, Snowy Rambler, Singing Down the Track, Mountain Tracks, and Kiandra and Beyond. Although there are several official histories of the Snowy Scheme, Ulick's songs are important because they document the work of the Snowy Mountains Scheme from the workers' viewpoint, something that is poorly documented elsewhere.

The weather was very kind and we all had a fantastic afternoon and night with singing and sessions in the Jindabyne Hotel.



Group photo of surviving Settlers at Ulick's monument unveiling

**9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November** featuring This Way North, The Band Who Knew Too Much, Hoot and Holler, Fred Smith, The String Contingent, Dan Musil, Georgia Fields, Mr Tim and the Fuzzy Elbows, On the Stoop and many more. Check the website [www.majorscreekfestival.org.au](http://www.majorscreekfestival.org.au)



Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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**Merry Muse Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm**

**A special blackboard to commemorate Armistice/Remembrance Day**

**Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston**

Admission \$3 MFS Members, Concessions, Blackboard Performers and \$5 Others

Please note that the Irish Club has asked that regular attendees also join the Irish Club

### **Blackboard**

This is Armistice Day and 100 years since the end of World War I –the war to end wars. So a special blackboard – at this stage no feature act – so roll out your anti-war songs – all songs welcome from the impact of war, protest songs, angry songs, sad songs, songs of individual tragedy and suffering – but please no patriotic glorification of war songs. Please email me with proposed song list – [eileennew23@gmail.com](mailto:eileennew23@gmail.com) – if you wish to be on the blackboard. You may not be restricted to our normal three items if you have some good ones.



<http://www.monarofolk.org.au/music/merry-muse-folk-club/>

Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email [eileennew23\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:eileennew23(at)gmail(dot)com)



## Regular Events

**Beyond Q Bookshop Old Time American music jam sessions**, Weston Arcade, 11 Brierly St, Weston - alternate Wednesdays on the weeks that Smiths Alternative Old Timey Tuesday is NOT on, 4.00-6.00 pm. Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845.

**Bluegrass Jam Nights** at Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah - 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 7.30-9.30 pm. Contact: Diane Cross 0402 644 450.

**Canberra Scottish Fiddlers** - A group for anyone with an interest in traditional Scottish fiddle music. Players with any level of experience are welcome to join. For more information, see our website [www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra](http://www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra) /or contact [markjenner@grapevine.com.au](mailto:markjenner@grapevine.com.au)

**Canberra Shanty Club** meets fortnightly on Mondays at 7.00 pm at the Old Canberra Inn,

**Earthly Delights Historic Costume Balls** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month. St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid. Also dance classes at ANU, Jane Austen Festival and other events. Contact: Aylwen Garden 6281 1098

**English traditional music sessions**, Pot Belly, 5/26 Weedon Close, Belconnen - alternate Sundays, 3.00-5.00 pm. Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845, Jackie Luke 0417 679 139.

**Folk Dance Canberra** offers international folk dancing for fun and fitness. [www.folkdancecanberra.org.au](http://www.folkdancecanberra.org.au) gives full details or contact Lesley Rose on 6286 6401

**Hoskinstown Acoustic Kitchen Jam** in the Hoskinstown Memorial Hall (old time American, bluegrass, folk) - 1st Thursday each month, 7.00-9.30 pm. Contact: Diane Cross 0402 644 450.

**Jammalong** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month come rain or shine at the Enid Lyons Park pergola, between Questacon and Lake Burley Griffin. 12.00 noon until everyone's had enough. Bring a chair and food and drink if you intend to stay for long.

**Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club** - last Sunday each month, Back to 6.00 pm start now Winter is over. Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. Contact: Wal Brewer – [wal.brewer@gmail.com](mailto:wal.brewer@gmail.com)

**Queanbeyan Bush Poets** - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month, 7.00 pm at the Queanbeyan Library. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856

**Shape Note Singing** (aka Sacred Harp) - most Wednesdays 7.00-9.00 pm, at Ainslie Church of Christ hall, corner of Limestone Avenue and Grimes Street, Ainslie. Contact Dianne Porter for dates: email [porter.32@bigpond.com](mailto:porter.32@bigpond.com) or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Canberrashapenote/>

**Smith's Alternative Old Timey Tuesdays** (old time American music jam sessions), 76 Alinga Street, Civic - alternate Tuesdays, 7.00-10.00 pm. See <https://www.smithsalternative.com/calendar> for the dates.

**Surly Griffin Morris** practices fortnightly on Sundays from 5.30 to 7.00 pm at the Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts Hall in Belconnen and performs at fetes and festivals and other occasions. Contact Simon Wall on 0404 859 404 or see facebook Surly Griffin Morris.

*Monaro Musings* is the newsletter of, and published by, Monaro Folk Society Inc, PO Box 482 Civic Square ACT 2608. Contact Editor by email as below. The Editor reserves the right not to publish any copy or advertisements that are considered libellous, misleading or discriminatory. All care will be taken but no responsibility will be accepted for omissions or errors. Views expressed by the Editor and others in Monaro Musings are not necessarily those of the Monaro Folk Society.

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**Contributions for the Musings:** Contributions, including advertising requests, should be sent preferably to the Editor's email address in the list below to reach the Editor early in the month. To permit proofing, printing and mail out to reach members before the end of the month, the deadline for copy is normally the 20th of the month preceding publication. Submissions are preferred in Word .doc & .docx / plaintext / JPEG / PNG format. All material must be identified as original work, or copyright clearance provided. In the case of photos or images, copyright normally inheres in the photographer or creator, not the owner of the camera, photo or image.

### Monaro Folk Society, Inc. 2017-18 Committee

President: Geoff Kell - [president@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:president@monarofolk.org.au); Vice-President: David Ball; Secretary: Ian Bull – [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au); Treasurer: Vacant - [treasurer@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:treasurer@monarofolk.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members: Matt Gibbins, John Hewat, Anne Mathas, Nelly Rogers, Chris Ward. For general enquiries please use [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au)

### Appointed Officials

Membership: Christine Gifford - [membership@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:membership@monarofolk.org.au); Merry Muse Coordinator: Vacant; Merry Muse PA Coordinator: Pierre Sibillant; Merry Muse Subcommittee Chair: Vacant; Acting *Monaro Musings* Editor: Tina Lynam - [editor@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:editor@monarofolk.org.au); Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela – [payments@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:payments@monarofolk.org.au); Web Manager: Neil Glassford - [webmaster@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:webmaster@monarofolk.org.au)

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